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PRESS RELEASE

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Paul McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced today the sentencing of five members of a drug trafficking ring on charges of conspiring to distribute crack cocaine in Mecklenburg County, Virginia, and related drug trafficking charges. This week, the following defendants were sentenced by United States District Judge Henry E. Hudson to serve the following:

Chris Roberts, 27 years old, and Thomas Junior Barnes, 24 years old, both of Chase City, Virginia, were sentenced on October 24, 2005, to 135 and 165 month's imprisonment, respectively, for conspiring to distribute in excess of fifty grams of crack cocaine. Derrick Jones, 36 years old, of Boynton, Virginia, and Milton Craig Davis, 30 years old, of South Boston, Virginia, were sentenced on October 28, 2005, to 240 and 262 months' imprisonment, respectively, also for conspiring to distribute in excess of fifty grams of crack cocaine. Marcus Mosely, 21 years old, of Chase City, Virginia, was sentenced on October 28, 2005, to 180 262 months' imprisonment for distributing crack cocaine.

In addition, five members of the ring are scheduled for sentencing next week.

Michael Nelson, 42 years old, of Chase City, Virginia, will be sentenced on November 1, 2005, for maintaining a place for the manufacture, storage, distribution, and use of controlled substances; Anthony Barnes, 38 years old, of Chase City, Virginia, will be sentenced on November 4, 2005 for the same charge; Wendell Lamont Hardy, 24 years old, of Baskerville, Virginia; and Marc Oliver, 30 years old, of Richmond, Virginia, will be sentenced on November 4, 2005 for conspiring to distribute in excess of 50 grams of crack cocaine; Alexander Walker, 32 years old, of Chase City, Virginia, will be sentenced on November 4, 2005, for conspiring to distribute crack cocaine. This will bring to forty the number of individuals from this ring prosecuted in federal court to date.

Throughout the conspiracy, the ring was responsible for the distribution of in excess of 1.5 kilograms of crack cocaine in the Mecklenburg area. Much of the activity occurred in and around the Chase City area. Some individuals obtained crack and powder cocaine; some converted the powder cocaine into crack cocaine; some packaged the drugs for distribution;

some maintained locations for the manufacture, distribution, storage, and use of crack cocaine; and some sold the crack to other dealers and to ultimate users.

The case was the result of an extensive investigation spanning the past 3 years, conducted by the Southside Drug Task Force. The Task Force includes officers and agents from the Virginia State Police, Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control, the towns of South Hill, Clarksville, and Chase City, and Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office. The investigation is continuing and more arrests are anticipated. Agents of the DEA are assisting in the investigation.

United States Attorney McNulty praised the joint efforts of the state, local and federal agencies, who pooled their resources to address organized drug distribution in Chase City, Clarksville and throughout the Mecklenburg County area.

Also announcing the sentencing are James R. Gregorius, Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration, Richmond Division; and Senior Special Agent B.A. Bowen, Coordinator of the Southside Drug Task Force,

Assistant United States Attorney Olivia Hawkins is prosecuting the case.

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